

January 16, 2006  
GO2-06-008

Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: **ET DOCKET NO. 05-345**  
**COMMENTS ON REQUEST FOR WAIVER**

Dear Sir or Madam:

On July 20, 2005, the Nuclear Energy Institute and United Telecom Council (NEI & UTC) filed a request for a waiver of the eligibility rules for Low Power Auxiliary Stations (Part 74, Subpart H) in order to permit the operators of nuclear power plants to continue to operate certain wireless headsets and intercom devices. In public notice DA 05-3216 the Commission requested comments on the waiver request.

Energy Northwest operates the Columbia Generating Station, a nuclear power station located in Washington State. We use these wireless communication devices on a limited basis for certain high risk operations and would like to go on record as supporting this request to allow continued operation. During critical operations such as moving spent fuel or manipulating reactor components, these devices offer wireless, hands free, full duplex, high fidelity communications between operators. From a safety perspective, it is absolutely essential that these communications be error-free without inadvertent actuations or missed commands that are often experienced with other equipment. It is for these reasons that we support a decision to approve the waiver of the rules to allow for the continued use of this equipment.

Respectfully,



D.W. Coleman  
Manager, Regulatory Programs  
Mail Drop PE20